

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. There is usually one military disciplinary battalion in each Military District in the USSR. Soldiers are sent to these battalions for not more than two years. They are used on various labor projects, such as the construction of houses, are poorly fed and clothed, are subjected to very strict discipline, and are permitted to write only one letter a month. After a soldier returns to his unit, he is required to serve longer, since no credit toward military service is allowed for time spent in a disciplinary battalion. If a former member of one of these battalions should again get into trouble, he probably would be tried by a Military Tribunal and sent to prison.
2. The disciplinary battalions were started by Timoshenko in 1940. Prior to that time, it was a joke to serve a sentence since the military prisoners played chess, ate well, and had a good rest.
3. The disciplinary battalions are usually commanded by colonels. These are selected from among the strictest officers and also receive additional pay.

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